



National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center
Houston, Texas



Quick fix

Speedy cooperation saves important experiment on Mir as shuttle does fly-around. Story on Page 3.



Columbia to roll

Columbia will roll to the Vehicle Assembly Bldg. Monday for STS-80. Story on Page 4.

Space News Roundup

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Goldin welcomes new contractor

Shuttle contract consolidation begins new era of efficiency

NASA began a new era in the Space Shuttle Program this week by consolidating much of the ground processing and in-flight operations under a simplified contract signed with United Space Alliance.

The six-year, \$7 billion base contract includes two, two-year extension options that could bring the total estimated contract value to about \$12 billion over 10 years.

While maintaining safety, the new contract is expected to reduce the cost of flying the shuttle. The contract assigns greater responsibility to USA, reducing the government's role in day-to-day operations.

"This is a major turning point for this agency," said NASA Administrator Dan Goldin during a signing ceremony held Monday in Bldg. 9. "Because what we're saying today is NASA believes in our very strong aerospace companies that they are going to do a job that will cause the shuttle to operate safer, cause the shuttle to operate for much less money and to give them the experience base so for the next generation of systems we don't even need to have the government involved."

Following a transitional period, NASA's involvement in the work accomplished by USA will be geared

more to managing unusual and critical issues that may occur during shuttle processing. NASA will retain ultimate responsibility for safe operations and will continue to direct high-level management of the program and flight operations. A variety of mechanisms—such as structured surveillance and audits, reviews of unusual "out-of-family" problems, safety performance grading and a detailed system of metrics—will be used to ensure that safety remains the contractor's highest priority.

"The government can do the things it does best and that's provide

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JSC Photo by Benny Benavides

From left, NASA Administrator Dan Goldin and JSC Director George Abbey congratulate United Space Alliance Chief Executive Officer Kent Black after signing the shuttle consolidation contract.



JSC Photo by Benny Benavides

From left, President Bill Clinton and NASA Administrator Dan Goldin welcome home Astronaut Shannon Lucid and her STS-79 crew mates, Commander Bill Readdy, Pilot Terry Wilcutt, Mission Specialists Jay Apt, Tom Akers and Carl Walz after Lucid's record-breaking stay on the Russian Mir Space Station.

Clinton, Goldin welcome home STS-79 crew

By Karen Schmidt

President Bill Clinton praised the "incredible skill and stamina" of Astronaut Shannon Lucid at JSC last week after her stay on the Russian Mir Space Station, and said that her achievement is an example to young women across the nation.

"Her achievement is the longest single flight by an American in space and the longest duration for any woman in space," Clinton said on the tarmac at Ellington Field. "Our space pioneers reflect the very best of America's spirit of exploration, our never ending search for new horizons. Dr. Shannon Lucid today stands tall among them all. We are grateful for her. We welcome her home."

Clinton joined NASA Administrator Dan Goldin, JSC Director George Abbey, more than 300 JSC workers and Lucid fans in ceremonies for the intrepid space traveler and the rest of the STS-79 crew last Friday.

Appearing healthy and happy to be home, Lucid responded that "Houston never looked so good."

Atlantis, carrying Lucid, Commander Bill Readdy, Pilot Terry Wilcutt, Mission Specialists Jay Apt, Tom Akers and Carl Walz, touched down at 7:13 a.m. CDT last Thursday at Kennedy Space Center after spending five days transferring supplies and equipment to Mir. During

docked operations, the first American crew exchange took place as Astronaut John Blaha took his place as part of Mir 22 and began his four-month stay on the Russian outpost.

"It's an amazing, amazing achievement. And I know I speak for all Americans when I say I think we all feel at least we've gotten to know

Dr. Lucid, watching her grin and bear it as the mission was extended, hearing her eagerness to see her family, her yearning for what she called the wind and the sun," the President added. "Perhaps more than she knows, she has also set a remarkable example for a new generation of young Americans. And especially young girls all across this country, who look up to her and now see new possibilities for themselves, and we thank her for that as well."

Clinton saluted Readdy and his crew, and the accomplishments of the entire NASA team in pulling together the fourth successful docking with the Russian station.

"What seems to me remarkable about their launch and return is that they make it now seem easy, and we know it's not. But we know that their bravery and their professionalism make possible for all of us regular space travel with all of the scientific, military and commercial benefits

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Blaha continues American presence

Astronaut John Blaha has picked up where his colleague left off, continuing a permanent American presence in space on the Russian Mir Space Station and working on a host of scientific experiments.

Now in his second week, Blaha is continuing many of the investigations that comprise the NASA-Mir science program. Blaha said he is honored to be playing a part in the joint program, designed to conduct

research related to long-duration space travel using both countries' resources and personnel.

"I think this is a fantastic program that we're doing with the Russians," Blaha said in a recent interview. "This kind of cooperation in space is something the Russians do very well, and we in America do very well. It's something we've both done well in the past so it's a good meeting ground and I think it's a good

start to an International Space Station and for space exploration in the future."

Blaha settled in quickly on the Mir, beginning work on some of his experiments shortly after *Atlantis* undocked from Mir on Aug. 23.

"I'm amazed at how quickly I've adapted to the Mir," Blaha said in an in-flight interview. "I've never been on the real Mir before; it looks very

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JSC to bestow highest honors to employees next week

Ninety JSC employees will receive JSC's highest honorary award Wednesday when JSC Director George Abbey, Deputy Director Jim Wetherbee and program managers present this year's Certificates of Commendation.

The Honor Awards Ceremony will be held at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Gilruth Center Ballroom. Recipients are encouraged to invite family members, friends and fellow employees to attend the ceremony with them. A reception for award recipients and their guests will follow the ceremony.

JSC civil service and contractor employees are invited to attend as workload permit. For further information regarding the ceremony, contact Helen Harris at x 38413, or directorate administrative officers.

The recipients of the 1996 Certificate of

Commendation are:

Human Resources Office: Candace Hunt and Scott Wood.

Public Affairs Office: Stella Luna.

Business and Information Services Directorate: Peggy Halyard, George Huff, Ronald Lentz, Stacy McDaniel, Michelle Miller, Lisa Rea Phillips, Kellye Welch and Peggy Wooten.

Flight Crew Operations Directorate: Gary Ash, Jeane Smith and Tamara West.

Mission Operations Directorate: Gilbert Bonse, LeRoy Cain, Patricia Collier, Denis Dahms, John Fields, Steven Gonzalez, Anthony Griffith, Yolanda Guillen-Burris, Sean Kelly, Randall McDaniel, Jane McKinnie, Melanie Miller, Debbie Pawkett, Don Pearson, Michael Rodriggs and Gail Schneider.

Engineering Directorate: Francisco Alanis, John Albright, John Bacon, Floyd Booker, Marybeth Edeen, Jay Estes, Sharon Goza, John Griffin, Jack Humphreys, Kaylene Kindt, Joseph Kosmo, Nicholas Lance, James LeBlanc, Robert Ling, Carolyn Lisenbee, Clarence Modlin, Moises Montez, Michael Montz, Leslie Quiocho, Carlos Roithmayr, Roger Schwarz, Victor Studer, Albert Wetterstroem, Patrick Wilson and Raul Zepeda.

Center Operations Directorate: Betsy Hodges, Jay Hoover, Robert Kehoe, Ronny Wade, Gary Wessels and Henry Wyndon.

Office of the Chief Financial Officer: Robert Beyer, Patricia Bright, Kevin Candee and Leslie Keener.

Space Shuttle Program Office: Harold Battaglia, Kenneth Brown, William Jordan,

Don McCutchen, C. Rick Miller and Anne Sweet.

Safety, Reliability and Quality Assurance Directorate: Roy Glanville, M. Scott Johnson, Alice Lee and David Thelen.

Space Station Program Office: Beth Cerrato, Thomas Cremins, Thomas Galloway, Yvette Garner, Lois Lennox, Kenneth Mitchell, Tri Nguyen, Patrick Pilola, James Waddell and Lucy Yates.

White Sands Test Facility: Michael Kirsch and Alton Luper.

Space And Life Sciences Directorate: Carmen Hollins, Cory Logan, Kamlesh Lulla, James Maida, Andrew Potter, Charles Sawin, Thomas Sullivan and Rachel Windham.

Phase One Program Office: Lindy Fortenberry and Janice Read.